

# Ecclesiastes 4

Chapter 4 of 12 · 16 Verses · Authorized King James Version

---

## The Vanity of Labor and Isolation

<sup>1</sup> So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

<sup>2</sup> Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.

<sup>3</sup> Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

<sup>4</sup> Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

<sup>5</sup> The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

<sup>6</sup> Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

<sup>8</sup> There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

<sup>10</sup> For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

**11** Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

**12** And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

---

### Wisdom Is Better Than Folly

**13** Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

**14** For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor.

**15** I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead.

**16** There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

---

## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

### Kingdom — מַלְכוּת (Malkhut)

Kingdom, reign, royal power

The Hebrew **malkhut** (מַלְכוּת) denotes kingdom or royal rule—the realm and reign of a king. God's kingdom represents His sovereign rule over all creation.

---

### Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

---

## CROSS REFERENCES

---

**Ecclesiastes 4:1**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 3:16; 5:8; Job 35:9; Psalms 12:5; 42:3; 42:9; Isaiah 5:7; 51:23; 59:7; Matthew 26:56

**Ecclesiastes 4:2**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:17

**Ecclesiastes 4:3**    **Parallel theme:** Matthew 24:19; Luke 23:29

**Ecclesiastes 4:4**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 2:21; 1 John 3:12. **Spirit:** Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:26

**Ecclesiastes 4:5**    **Parallel theme:** Job 13:14; Proverbs 13:4; 20:4; Isaiah 9:20

**Ecclesiastes 4:6**    **Parallel theme:** Psalms 37:16; Proverbs 16:8; 17:1

**Ecclesiastes 4:7**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 4:1

**Ecclesiastes 4:8**    **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 1:8; 1:13; 5:10; Psalms 39:6; Proverbs 27:20; Isaiah 5:8; Matthew 11:28; Luke 12:20; 1 John 2:16. **Good:** Genesis 2:18

**Ecclesiastes 4:9**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 11:14; Ruth 2:12; Proverbs 27:17; Haggai 1:14; Mark 6:7; John 4:36; Acts 13:2; 2 John 1:8. **Good:** Genesis 2:18

**Ecclesiastes 4:10**    **Parallel theme:** Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11

**Ecclesiastes 4:12**    **Parallel theme:** Ephesians 4:3

**Ecclesiastes 4:13**    **Kingdom:** 2 Chronicles 25:16. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 19:1

**Ecclesiastes 4:14**

**Parallel theme:** Genesis 41:14; 2 Kings 25:7; Job 5:11; Lamentations 4:20. **Kingdom:** 2 Kings 24:6; 24:12; Daniel 4:31

**Ecclesiastes 4:16**    **Spirit:** Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:17. **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 1:40

